



Seattle City Council

April 1, 2013

Commissioner David Stern
National Basketball Association
Olympic Tower, 645 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Commissioner Stern,

We are writing to express our enthusiasm about welcoming professional men's basketball back to Seattle. We pledge to work closely with you and Chris Hansen to make the transition smooth and successful.

Our working partnership with Chris over the past year has been productive and we have quickly accomplished a great deal, including a binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into by the City of Seattle, King County and Chris in December, 2012. The project advancement steps established in the MOU are well underway. Last month, the City's Design Review Board approved the preliminary design for the new arena and a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is on track to be issued this summer.

Currently, the City is finalizing an agreement with Chris for use of Key Arena beginning this fall. The return of the Sonics to the Seattle Center for the next two or three seasons will bring new life and energy to the Center and the surrounding neighborhood. When this agreement is delivered to the Council for approval, we will advance it as expeditiously as possible. Necessary upgrades to the facility can then be completed over the summer, and Seattle can host NBA games this fall.

Throughout this process, Chris has been a collaborative partner. His efforts have ignited broad and deep excitement. We look forward to a strong partnership with you and Chris to bring the NBA back to Seattle.

Sincerely,



Sally J. Clark, President



Tim Burgess, Chair
Government Performance and Finance